

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephen P. Catlin on 4/22/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An operating method for sequentially performing settings for plural items in a predetermined order, the method comprising:

storing plural setting menu display data provided to the respective plural items;

displaying, in a single frame of a display device, the stored plural setting menu display data of plural items to be set;

allowing an operator to input an instruction to perform settings of the plural items through the display device; and

performing setting of the plural items in accordance with the inputted instruction; wherein

when setting of a first item which is being set is performed based on the inputted instruction, a setting menu display data of a second item that is next to the first item in the predetermined order is displayed, and the first item is displayed as an item which has been already set, ~~and~~

Art Unit: 2174

an item which has been already set, an item which is being set along with parameters to choose from, and an item which has not yet been set are displayed in the single frame of the display device so as to be distinguishable from one another;

an operation of displaying a setting frame for an item which has been already set is allowed to be carried out when one of plural setting frames is displayed,

when the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, the setting for the item is carried out, and the setting frame being displayed is automatically restored to a previous setting frame which is displayed just before the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, and

when the setting frame is restored to the previous setting frame, a state which has been just previously set is maintained.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The operating method as claimed in claim 1, wherein values which have been set are displayed for the item which has been already set.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An operating device for sequentially performing settings for plural items in a predetermined order, comprising:

a storage unit that stores plural setting menu display data provided to the respective plural items;

a display unit that displays, in a single frame, the stored plural setting menu display data of plural items to be set;

Art Unit: 2174

an input unit that inputs an instruction from an operator to perform settings of the plural items through the display device; and

a control unit that performs setting of the plural items in accordance with the inputted instruction, wherein

when setting of a first item which is being set is performed based on the inputted instruction, the display unit displays a setting menu display data of a second item that is next to the first item in the predetermined order, and the first item is displayed as an item which has been already set, and

an item which has been already set, an item which is being set along with parameters to choose from, and an item which has not yet been set are displayed in the single frame of the display so as to be distinguishable from one another, -

an operation of displaying a setting frame for an item which has been already set is allowed to be carried out when one of plural setting frames is displayed,

when the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, the setting for the item is carried out, and the setting frame being displayed is automatically restored to a previous setting frame which is displayed just before the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, and

when the setting frame is restored to the previous setting frame, a state which has been just previously set is maintained.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The operating device as claimed in claim 7, wherein values which have been already set are displayed for the item which has been already set.

Art Unit: 2174

10-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus having an operating device for sequentially performing settings for plural items in a predetermined order, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a storage unit that stores plural setting menu display data provided to the respective plural items; and

a display unit that displays, in a single frame, the stored plural setting menu display data of plural items to be set;

an input unit that inputs an instruction from an operator to perform settings of the plural items through the display device; and

a control unit that performs setting of the plural items in accordance with the inputted instruction, wherein

when setting of a first item which is being set is performed based on the inputted instruction, the display unit displays a setting menu display data of a second item that is next to the first item in the predetermined order, and the first item is turned an item which has been already set, and

an item which has been already set, an item which is being set along with parameters to choose from, and an item which has not yet been set are displayed in the single frame of the display so as to be distinguishable from one another;

an operation of displaying a setting frame for an item which has been already set is allowed to be carried out when one of plural setting frames is displayed,

when the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, the setting for the item is carried out, and the setting frame being displayed is

Art Unit: 2174

automatically restored to a previous setting frame which is displayed just before the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, and
when the setting frame is restored to the previous setting frame, a state which has been just previously set is maintained.

14. (Currently Amended) An operating method for sequentially performing settings for plural items in a predetermined order to perform settings for a processor, the method comprising:

displaying, in a single frame of a display device, all of the plural items and one of plural setting menu display data of plural items to be set;

inputting an instruction from an operator to perform settings of the plural items through the display device;

setting the plural items in accordance with the inputted instruction;

carrying out a processing operation of the processor on the basis of contents set for the plural items; and

maintaining the contents set for the plural items; wherein

when setting of a first item which is being set is performed based on the inputted instruction, the display unit displays a setting menu display data of a second item that is next to the first item in the predetermined order, and the first item is displayed as an item which has been already set, ~~and~~

an item which has been already set, an item which is being set along with parameters to choose from, and an item which has not yet been set are displayed in the single frame of the display device so as to be distinguishable from one another.

an operation of displaying a setting frame for an item which has been already set is allowed to be carried out when one of plural setting frames is displayed, when the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, the setting for the item is carried out, and the setting frame being displayed are automatically restored to a previous setting frame which is displayed just before the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, and when the setting frame is restored to the previous setting frame, a state which has been just previously set is maintained.

15. (Original) The operating method as claimed in claim 14, wherein after the processing operation of the processor is executed, an instruction can be provided as to whether the contents set for the plural items are maintained or the contents set are cleared.

16. (Currently Amended) An operating method for sequentially performing settings for plural items in a predetermined order to perform the setting for a processor, the method comprising:

enabling provision of instruction by a user for all the settings for the plural items to be initial settings;

setting the plural items in accordance with the provided instruction; and
displaying, in a single frame of a display device, all of the plural items and one of plural setting frames provided to the plural items, wherein

when setting of a first item which is being set is performed based on the inputted instructions, the display unit displays a setting frame of a second item that is

Art Unit: 2174

next to the first item in the predetermined order, and the first item is displayed as an item which has been already set, ~~and~~

an item which has been already set, an item which is being set along with parameters to choose from, and an item which has not yet been set are displayed in the single frame so as to be distinguishable from one another,-

an operation of displaying a setting frame for an item which has been already set is allowed to be carried out when one of the plural setting frames is displayed, when the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, the setting for the item is carried out, and the setting frame being displayed are automatically restored to a previous setting frame which is displayed just before the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, and when the setting frame is restored to the previous setting frame, a state which has been just previously set is maintained.

17. (Original) The operating method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the instruction is provided on an initial frame.

18-22. (Canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior arts fail to teach individually or by combination:

“displaying, in a single frame of a display device, all of the plural items and one of plural setting frames provided to the plural items, wherein

when setting of a first item which is being set is performed based on the inputted instructions, the display unit displays a setting frame of a second item that is

Art Unit: 2174

next to the first item in the predetermined order, and the first item is displayed as an item which has been already set, ~~and~~

an item which has been already set, an item which is being set along with parameters to choose from, and an item which has not yet been set are displayed in the single frame so as to be distinguishable from one another, -

an operation of displaying a setting frame for an item which has been already set is allowed to be carried out when one of the plural setting frames is displayed,

when the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, the setting for the item is carried out, and the setting frame being displayed are automatically restored to a previous setting frame which is displayed just before the setting frame for the item which has been already set is displayed, and

when the setting frame is restored to the previous setting frame, a state which has been just previously set is maintained.”

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SIMON KE whose telephone number is (571)272-4062. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and Alternate Fridays 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Peng Ke
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Examiner, Art Unit 2174